(e) whether Government are considering to equip the above station with facilities of international level; and

(0 if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, improvement of infrastructure facilities at important stations like New Delhi is a continuous process. Works in this regard are sanctioned and executed regularly. The station is also equipped to handle lakhs of passengers every day. To meet the future increase in passenger traffic, many development works including construction of new station building on Ajmeri Gate have been sanctioned. There is as such no negligence on the part of Railway Administration in this regard.

(d) to (f) Railway has planned to develop New Delhi Railway Station into World class station through the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA). Discussions with other Government departments and local bodies such as Ministry of Urban Development, Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi Municipal Corporation, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Government of Delhi etc. have also been held for formulation of the scheme.

Construction of overbridge at Dumraon

†2080. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passengers have to cross rail tracks for arriving at platform at Dumraon railway station on Mughalsarai-Patna section due to damage to overbridge thereat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that construction material for the said overbridge is lying there for over a year and not being utilised;

(c) if so, the reasons for such delay; and

(d) the action being taken to construct the said bridge at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. The material collected is not meant for the repairs of the existing Foot Over Bridge but for construction of new Foot Over

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Bridge, which has been planned in the central portion of the station building. The contract for construction of a new Foot Over Bridge has since been awarded.

Sickness of gang staff

2081. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on an average 25 per cent of "D" category permanent way gang staff, remain on sick lists with man-days lost on this account remain unrecouped;

(b) if so, whether this affects track maintenance and thus the rail safety;

(c) whether his Ministry would take any steps to improve the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The average staff absenteeism on account of sickness is less than 10%.

(b) Rail safety is not affected since provision of 12.5% leave rserve is considered for determining the gang strength.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has already taken some steps and have permitted execution of certain items related to track maintenance/ works through the deployment of contractual agencies to recoup the man days lost on account of absenteeism in the gang.

Besides, staff are regularly counselled by inspecting officials to take-preventice measures to avoid sickness. Regular medical check up, medications, counselling against abuse of alcohol, precaution against sun strokes and severe cold is advised from time to time. Strict disciplinary action is also taken against habitual absentees.

Allocation for Orissa in Rail Budget 2006-07

2082. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Orissa has requested